

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 remain in the application. Claims 13 and 28 stand allowed and are not amended. Claims 8, 10, 12, 14 and 15 are amended. Claims 1-7, 9, 11 and 17-27 are cancelled.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 18, 20 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph. Claims 18, 20 and 27 are cancelled, whereby the rejection is made moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-6, 17 and 19-26 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 4,306,210 to Saur.

Claims 1-6, 17 and 19-26 are cancelled, whereby the rejection is made moot.

However, the Applicants reserve the right to pursue one or more of cancelled claims 1-6, 17 and 19-26 in one or more Continuation applications.

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,337,036 to Kuczynski.

Claim 7 is cancelled, whereby the rejection is made moot.

However, the Applicants reserve the right to pursue cancelled claim 7 in a Continuation application.

Claim 8 is amended to depend from allowed claim 28 and is therefore allowable.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 9-12 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Kuczynski.

Claims 9 and 11 are cancelled, whereby the rejection is made moot.

However, the Applicants reserve the right to pursue one or more of cancelled claims 9 and 11 in one or more Continuation applications.

Claims 10 and 12 are amended to depend from allowed claim 28 and are therefore allowable.

Allowed Claims

Claims 13 and 28 stand allowed.

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Reply to Office action of May 22, 2003

Claim Objections

Claims 14-16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 14 is amended to read in independent form and is now believed to be allowable.

Claim 15 is amended to depend from allowable claim 14 and is now believed to be allowable.


Claim 16 depends from allowable claim 15 and is now believed to be allowable.

The claims now being in form for allowance, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has questions or wishes to discuss any aspect of the case, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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